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CASE HP/5-21868/US/APCT/RCE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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6/4/04
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

Group Art Unit: 1616

DIETMAR HÜGLIN ET AL

Examiner: B. P. Badio

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 99/07980

FILED: OCTOBER 21, 1999

FOR: STABILIZATION OF BODY-CARE AND

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

U.S. APPLICATION NO: 09/830,788

35 USC 371 DATE: MAY 1, 2001

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

File Purposes
Only

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed within the shortened statutory period for response to the Office action mailed on March 4, 2004.

No fee, petition, or certification is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due, or credit any overcharge, as a result of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-1935.

Please amend the above-identified patent application without prejudice as follows.

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Claims 16, 20-26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite due to the missing definition of M in $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}$. Re

The specification is objected to and claims 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 16, 20-26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite due to the missing definition of M in $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}$. Responsive to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph applicants have amended claim 16 to recite, "M is an alkali metal cation or ammonium cation". M is defined as an alkali metal cation or ammonium cation on page 30, last line of the disclosure.

It is respectfully submitted that all the claims submitted for reconsideration are in good formal order. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16, 20-26 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs is therefore solicited.

Applicants affirm that claim 20 is pending.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 16, 20-26 and 31 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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